



# California Department of Veterans Affairs

## VETERANS NEWS

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### CalVet Establishes the John K. Lopez Award for Entrepreneurship Excellence

#### *Veterans Home Employee Honored For Commitment To Purchasing With Small And Disabled Veteran Businesses*

Recognizing the commitment to serving disabled veterans and working to help them obtain state contracts, the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) has established the ***John K. Lopez Award for Entrepreneurship Excellence*** named after the first recipient of that commendation.

Presented October 29, at the annual State Agency Recognition Awards Ceremony, this award is named for John K. Lopez, founder of the Task Force on Veteran's Enterprise and Chair of the Association for Service Disabled Veterans, and will be presented annually to a deserving person who demonstrates an outstanding commitment to enabling service disabled veteran-owned businesses to successfully compete for government contracts.

The State and Consumer Services Agency (SCSA) which hosts and runs the SARA ceremonies also recognized Steve Ebo, California Department of Veterans Affairs, Chula Vista Veterans Home, among six other state employees and 11 agencies for their outstanding effort and commitment to increasing the amount of contracts to California's small and disabled veterans' owned businesses in a ceremony at Sacramento State University.

"We are very proud of Steve for providing divisions within CalVet a partial list of vendors, including certification numbers with expiration dates and commodity listings." Said Tom Johnson, Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs. "By providing this information directly to the divisions, Steve made it easier for the requestors to begin utilizing more small businesses and Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise (DVBE) vendors."

In 2006, Gov. Schwarzenegger directed his administration to do 25 percent of its purchasing and contracting with certified small businesses and at least 3 percent with disabled veterans business enterprises (DVBE). This year's State Agency Recognition Awards honored employees and departments for their best practices, innovation and outstanding achievements in working to meet the governor's ambitious goal.

"Our Governor knows small businesses are a vital resource to state government and the California economy and has raised the bar for departments and agencies to expand the role of small firms and disabled veteran businesses doing business with us," said SCSA Secretary Rosario Marin. "The individuals and agencies acknowledged today have taken that challenge to heart and worked hard to meet that goal."

Most Improved Small Business Participation Awards went to the California Environmental Protection Agency, Gambling Control Commission and Department of Industrial Relations while the Office of Real Estate Appraisers, California Tahoe Conservancy and Department of Social Services brought the Most Improved Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise Participation Awards back to their offices.

All awards were judged by an impartial panel of representatives from state, non-profit and business entities. For a complete list of nominees please visit [www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/smbus/SARA2008.htm](http://www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/smbus/SARA2008.htm).

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